

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 9-12, and 21-30 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 20, claims 16, 17, 19 and 20 have been canceled, and claims 28-30 are added. No new matter has been added. Claims 28-30 recite the original subject matter of claims 9, 11 and 12.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 21-27. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating claims 9 and 20 contain allowable subject matter.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Japanese Patent JP 57-3228 A to Kitamura. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, as amended, now incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 20. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1, and claims 5 and 10-12 depending therefrom, is respectfully requested.

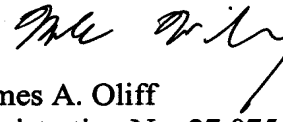
Additionally, the Office Action objects to claim 9 for dependence on a rejected based claim. Claim 9 now depends from an allowable base claim. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claim 9 is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, claim 28, and claims 29 and 30 depending therefrom, is in condition for allowance as it corresponds to the original subject matter of allowable claim 9.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: April 2, 2008

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